Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 17, 18, and 19, and cancel claim 20, in accordance with the list of claims that begins on the following page, and which replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for precisely positioning a storage disk, comprising:

a spindle configured for mounting the storage disk on the spindle;

a device coupled to the spindle for rotating the spindle to change the angular position of the storage disk with respect to a predefined reference position; and

a metal bar pressed against the spindle for braking the spindle at a predetermined position and not allowing a swing back.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a stepper motor, and wherein the metal bar comprises a flexible spring shaped as a bar.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a stepper motor, and further comprising a friction wheel coupled to the stepper motor, wherein the friction wheel is selectably positionable in contact with the spindle.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus for precisely positioning a storage disk, comprising:

a spindle configured for mounting the storage disk on the spindle;

a stepper motor coupled to the spindle for rotating the spindle to change the angular position of the storage disk with respect to a predefined reference position; and

a flexible spring shaped as a bar adapted to be pressed against the spindle for braking the spindle at a predetermined position and not allowing a swing back.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a friction wheel coupled to the stepper motor, wherein the friction wheel is selectably positionable in contact with the spindle for coupling the stepper motor to the spindle.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a relay, wherein the bar is connected to the relay.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the relay is software-controllable.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising an air pressure cylinder, wherein the flexible spring is connected to the air pressure cylinder.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the flexible spring shaped as a bar is made of a metal.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the metal is aluminum.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a low abrasive material, wherein the flexible spring shaped as a bar is coated with the low abrasive material.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the flexible spring shaped as a bar is made of teflon-coated steel.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising means for adjusting a force with which the flexible spring shaped as a bar is pressed against the spindle, wherein the means for adjusting the force is coupled to the flexible spring shaped as a bar.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for adjusting is a micrometer screw.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising the storage disk, wherein the storage disk comprises a magnetic disk.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising the storage disk, wherein the storage disk is an optical storage disk.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus for precisely positioning a medium, comprising:
a spindle configured for mounting the medium on the spindle;

means coupled to the spindle, for rotating the spindle to continuously change the angular position of the medium with respect to a predefined reference position; and

a flexible spring shaped as a bar pressed against the spindle, for braking the spindle at a predetermined position and not allowing a swing back;

~~The apparatus of claim 20,~~ and further comprising the medium, wherein the medium is an optical filter.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for precisely positioning a medium, comprising:

a spindle configured for mounting the medium on the spindle;

means coupled to the spindle, for rotating the spindle to continuously change the angular position of the medium with respect to a predefined reference position; and

a flexible spring shaped as a bar pressed against the spindle, for braking the spindle at a predetermined position and not allowing a swing back;

~~The apparatus of claim 20,~~ and further comprising the medium, wherein the medium is a lens.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for precisely positioning a medium, comprising:

a spindle configured for mounting the medium on the spindle;

means coupled to the spindle, for rotating the spindle to continuously change the angular position of the medium with respect to a predefined reference position; and

a flexible spring shaped as a bar pressed against the spindle, for braking the spindle at a predetermined position and not allowing a swing back;

~~The apparatus of claim 20,~~ and further comprising the medium, wherein the medium is a mirror.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A method for positioning a storage disk mounted on a spindle at a predefined angular position, the method comprising the following operations:

mounting the storage disk on the spindle;

using the amount of electrical current of a relay to press a flexible spring shaped as a bar against the spindle using a predetermined friction force;

rotating the spindle towards the predefined angular position;

stopping a stepper motor at a predefined encoder signal pulse number P_{In-x} so that a static position of the spindle is achieved between two encoder signal pulses;

rotating the spindle stepwise until an encoder signal pulse P_{In-1} is reached;

moving the spindle to the encoder signal pulse P_{In};

counting the number of steps necessary to move the spindle from the signal pulse P_{In-1} to the signal pulse P_{In}; and

based on the number of steps counted, calculating the number of steps necessary to move the spindle to the predefined angular position.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the operation of adjusting the predetermined friction force so that oscillations of the spindle are excluded when the stepper motor is stopped at the predefined encoder signal pulse number P_{In-x}.

23. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the operation of adjusting the predetermined friction force so that the force of static friction, F_{StSB}, is greater than a force F_E.